



THE EUROPEAN UNION AND MOLDOVA



#StrongerTogether

August 2022



Ties between the EU and the Republic of Moldova have been in place for over 20 years. Since 2014, relations have been based on the [EU-Moldova Association Agreement](#), which provides the foundations for stronger political association and economic integration between the EU and Moldova. The Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) is an integral part of this Agreement. The EU's assistance and support for democratic reforms [have delivered tangible benefits to Moldovan citizens](#).

On **2 June 2021** the European Commission announced an [Economic Recovery Plan for the Republic of Moldova](#). The Commission will mobilise up to €600 million between 2021 and 2024 to [promote investments in Moldova and support recovery from the COVID-19 crisis](#) in the country, in exchange for structural reforms.

On **3 March 2022**, Moldova presented its application for EU membership.

On **17 June 2022**, the Commission delivered its opinion.

On **23 June 2022**, the European Council endorsed the European Commission Opinion, giving Moldova a European perspective and granting the country candidate status, on the understanding that a number of steps are taken by Moldova.

The [Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe \(NDICI\)](#) is the main instrument for the EU's cooperation with external partners, including Moldova. The EU's indicative bilateral allocation to Moldova for the period 2021-2024 amounts to €260 million and will be complemented by other regional and thematic programmes as well as funding in the forms of loans and guarantees.

ECONOMIC & INVESTMENT PLAN

The EU supports Moldova with concrete investments to help post-pandemic recovery and improve the lives of Moldovan citizens. Under the EIP, in cooperation with European financial institutions, the EU will mobilise around **€3.4 billion** in public and private investments for **five flagships** that have been identified together with the Moldovan authorities:

The EU is Moldova's largest trading partner and biggest investor. In 2020, the EU accounted for approximately 67% of Moldova's total exports and 53% of its total trade.

Thanks to visa free travel, Moldovan citizens have taken more than 2.5 million trips to the EU without a visa.



Direct support for 50,000 Moldovan SMEs



Construction of an Inland Freight Terminal in Chisinau



Refurbishment of district heating systems in residential buildings in Chisinau and Balti



Anchoring Moldova in the Trans-European Network for Transport



Investing in Human Capital Development

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EU RESPONSE TO THE RUSSIAN INVASION



Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has particularly affected Moldova with over 450,000 refugees entering the country and around 80,000 still on Moldovan territory. Relative to its population of just over 2.5 million, Moldova is the country with the most refugees per capita.

EU support has focused on humanitarian aid (**€13 million**), support to people fleeing the invasion (**€15 million**) and border management (**€15 million**).

The EU has also provided **€15 million** in grant assistance and **€60 million** in budget support for energy security and efficiency in Moldova. An additional €75 million of budget support was provided in August 2022, bringing the EU's budget support package for Moldova to a total of €135 million since December 2021. On 16 March 2022, the electricity grid of Moldova has been successfully synchronised with the Continental European Network, under emergency mode.

To strengthen Moldova's resilience, the EU also supports cybersecurity and the fight against disinformation (**€8 million**), modernisation of the armed forces to help civilians in crisis through the European Peace Facility (**€47 million**), and independent media (**€5 million**).

Macro-financial assistance (**€150 million**) will contribute to the country's efforts to cope with the repercussions of the invasion. On 1 August 2022, the EU disbursed a first tranche of €50 million, of which €35 million in long-term loans on concessional terms and €15 million in grants. An additional €52 million grant will advance Moldova's long term resilience, recovery and reforms

In June 2022, the European Commission proposed a liberalisation package which will help overcome economic loss, stabilise and boost Moldova's economy. For a year, several agricultural products will be able to be exported to the EU tariff-free. This is a demonstration of EU's solidarity designed to help Moldova deal with the loss of its main markets and transit hubs for these key agricultural products resulting from Russia's unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine.

Road transport agreements signed between the EU, Ukraine and Moldova will help ensure secure supply chains and food security, following Russia's unprovoked and unjustified aggression against Ukraine and its blockage of traditional transport routes.

The EU continues its **firm support for Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integrity** within its internationally recognised borders.



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 European Commission: ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/moldova | twitter.com/eu_near

